

THEA 2301 sec. 001
Scenic and Lighting Principles
Spring 2019
University of Texas at El Paso
9:00 am – 10:20am TR
Fox Fine Arts – Drama D180

COURSE DESCRIPTION/COURSE OVERVIEW: This course is designed to lay the foundation for student' knowledge and skills in the area of production. The course will cover the principals of both scene construction and stage lighting including safety in the shop, tools, rigging, and basic theatre electricity.

COURSE GOALS: The goals of this class is for all students to study and comprehend the technical problems that arise in the production department through the standard classroom and the UTEP Scene Shop, Studio, and Wise Theatre. Areas of focus include: tools and materials for scenery construction, construction techniques of scenery and properties, rigging and safety, and basic theatre lighting techniques (reading and hanging the light plot).

CREDIT ALLOCATION: 3 Credit Hours

FACULY INFORMATION

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Office Hours: TR 10:30 – 11:20

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

-*Illustrated Theatre Production Guide* by John Holloway ISBN: 0-240-80493
-*Backstage Handbook* by Paul Carter ISBN: 978-0911747393
-*Designing with Light 5th Edition* by J. Michael Gillette (suggested, not required)
ISBN: 978-0073514154

REQUIRED SUPPLIES:

-Safety Glasses with Clear Lenses
-Reusable Corded Earplugs or Earmuffs

COURSE POLICIES:

1. **Attendance:** Students are expected to attend all classes and to arrive on time. Each student is allowed **3 unexcused absence** before their final grade is affected. Their final grade will be lowered on for each absence beyond the 3 “allowed” unexcused absence. In addition to unexcused absences, three tardies or early exits will equal one absence. In accordance with university policy this course will excuse a student from attending classes or required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day. The student shall also be excused for time necessary to travel for said holy day. An institution may not penalize the student for the absence and allows for the student to take an exam or complete an assignment from which the student is excused. Participation in

official university business must be documented by a written notice from the sponsoring faculty or staff member PRIOR to the event. Such students must present their related plans to the instructor in writing by the end of the second week of class.

2. **Student Conduct and Discipline:** “The University of Texas at El Paso expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding student conduct and discipline, which is contained in both print and web versions of the Handbook of Operating Procedures.” Those regulations and policies can be found at (<http://hopp.utep.edu/StudentAffairsIndexPageHOP.htm>) and in the “Catalog” of the University of Texas at El Paso.
3. **Blackboard Access:** Students are required to subscribe to and access the course Blackboard site. This site is the main communication source between faculty and students. Students are encouraged to access the site daily. The course syllabus, calendar, outline of scheduled lectures, assigned readings, and assignment criteria are posted on this site. Assignment grades and final course grades will be made available only through this site.
4. **Communication:** Communication is the responsibility of both students and faculty. Faculty will keep students informed of progress and students will inform faculty of any deterrent to their success.
5. **Special Needs:** Any student who, because of a disabling condition, may require some special arrangements in order to meet course requirements should contact the instructor in person as soon as possible so that necessary arrangements may be made. Students should contact UTEP Disabled Student Services and acquire verification at <http://www.utep.edu/dsso>. Any request for special accommodations must be presented by the second week of class.
6. **Plagiarism:** Offering the work of others, as one’s own is plagiarism. You will be held accountable for such actions as outlined in the Handbook of Operating Procedures. Those regulations and policies can be found at (<http://hopp.utep.edu/StudentAffairsIndexPageHOP.htm>) and in the “Catalog” of the University of Texas at El Paso.
7. **Content of Theatre Productions:** The performing arts have a power to stir strong emotions, or possibly touch on subjects you might not feel comfortable seeing on stage. If you have concerns about viewing or discussing specific subjects, please see me as soon as possible to discuss possible accommodations. As I will respect your individual's rights to choose what shows you want to see, I expect all our discussions—including any that may occur outside of class—to be conducted in a respectful and professional matter.
8. **Environment:** Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment, which is conducive to learning. In order to assure that all students have the opportunity to gain from time spent in class, unless otherwise approved by instructor, students are prohibited from using cellular phones and other electronic devices, eating or drinking, making offensive remarks, reading newspapers, sleeping, or engaging in any form of distraction in the classroom. First violation of this policy will result in the instructor talking with the student immediately and scheduling a meeting after class. Second

violation of this policy will result in the instructor referring the student to the department chair who will schedule a meeting with the student. At that meeting, the chairperson will inform the student that repeated deviations from expected classroom behavior will result in an immediate referral to the Office of the Dean of Students for disciplinary action in accordance with the Handbook of Operating Procedures of The University of Texas at El Paso.

9. **Assignments:** Projects must be turned in on the date they are due, **no late work will be accepted.**
10. **Meetings:** Individual student conferences may be made by arrangement or during listed office hours.

STUDENT RESOURCES:

UTEP Technology Support Center: The Technology Support Center (TSC) offers UTEP students access to state of the art computing equipment and specialized software for academic needs. The TSC is also home to the PC Clinic, which offers computer software repair services to students at no cost. The center is located in the library, room 300 (747-5257).

Student Health Center: UTEP Student Health Center is here to meet the health care needs of all students so they can focus on their studies. As a student you have paid a medical service fee that allows you to be seen at the clinic as often as needed. Office visits are low cost as well as medications, supplies and any needed lab tests (747-5624).

University Counseling Center: The UTEP University Counseling Center located at 202 Union West can assist you to decide on a career or work through personal concerns. They provide confidential counseling services, assist with stress management, and offer an after-hours crisis support line (747-5302).

Course Requirements

1. All quizzes and selected additional course work will be in class or expected as homework.
2. Reading assignments are due at the beginning of each unit.
3. You must see a minimum of two Theatrical Productions produced by the Department of Theatre and Dance and the UTEP Dinner Theatre. All extra shows, including the Dinner Theatre, or the greater El Paso/ Juarez community and the Dance Production will be counted as extra credit (extra credit will go towards Class Participation and Attendance).

PLEASE NOTE FOR ALL REQUIRED SHOWS AND EXTRA CREDIT SHOWS AT UTEP: You are required to sign an attendance sheet at the end of the performance you attend. If you do not sign this sheet at the end of the performance you will not get credit for attendance and attach a ticket to your paper, your paper will not be accepted and you will receive a 0 for the assignment. The house manager will have the sign out sheet available at the end of each performance.

4. Students are required to submit **two** 2-3-page MLA formatted double spaced responses to two UTEP Dept. of Theatre & Dance productions. The response is due the first class period after the strike of that production, and is to be typed and handed in at the beginning of said class period.
5. Lab Requirements: In addition to the class meeting times, you will be required to complete **40 hours** of production work; 20 hours of this work in scene shop and 20 will be in the lighting shop **OR** on the a running crew plus **10 hours** in either the scene shop or light shop. If you are on a running crew for a particular production, you are required to attend **all work calls** for that production.

You cannot receive credit for a running crew if you are cast in the same production.

Part of working in the shop is safety. You are required to go onto BlackBoard and read the shop safety presentation by the first week of your work in the shop. After you have read and understand all of the safety protocols of the scene shop, you will be asked to take a short test. I will keep this on file for the future. If you have not taken the test by the second week, you will not be allowed to work in the shop until you have successfully passed the safety test.

PLEASE NOTE: The 40-hour minimum that must be obtained to receive a passing grade for this portion of the class. Attitude and work ethic are factors in the scene shop portion of the grade. **Note: Failure to complete any sections (lab, course work) will result in an F.**

6. **Midterm Project Requirements:** Students must construct a project (to be assigned) and then graded for proper building techniques and tool usage. The project will be saved for use in UTEP productions.
7. **Final Project Requirements:** This project will be based on individual advancement.

Grading for these two projects will be based upon the student's grasp of the material and correct techniques. Neatness is a factor!

Grading Breakdown

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| Class Participation and Attendance | 40 pts |
| Written Responses to Show | 20 pts |
| Quizzes (4 Total Quizzes) | 40 pts |
| Exams (Test #1, Test #2, and Final – All worth 67 pts each) | 201 pts |
| Scene/Lighting Shop Hours | 300 pts |
| Midterm Project | 200 pts |
| Final Project | 100 pts |
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| | Total: 901 pts |

Breakdown: 810-901: A
720-810: B
631-719: C
541-630: D
000-540: F

Failure to complete any sections (lab, course work, tests) will result in a “F”.

Please Note: Information contained in this syllabus, other than the grade and absence policy, is subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor to enhance learning opportunities. Any and all changes will be clearly communicated.